Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders Workshop Meeting Minutes October 3, 2012

The meeting was opened by Director Acton at 5:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director Acton read the Open Public Meeting Act.

Freeholders Present: Dept. Director Laury, Cross, Vanderslice, Bobbitt, Timberman, Ware, and Director Acton.

Presentation

County Tax Administrator John Snyder addressed the Freeholders on various topics but lead a discussion on the Tax Board website. He first announced that the ratables in Salem County have been recently adjusted, 24 million upward. He noted when questioned about County-wide assessment that this was a decision of the Tax Board, but that currently eight assessors where working throughout Salem County. He also noted that there were 372 tax appeals this year in Salem County. When questioned about the farmland assessment he noted that to qualify there must be 5 acres of land with actual crops.

He then noted all of the various services included on the website, specifically outlining Tax Rate breakdowns, Understanding your assessment, and the exemptions from property taxes that a resident is entitled to take. The Freeholders thanked Mr. Snyder for coming in and making a good presentation.

Freeholder Committee Reports:

Administration- Director Acton reported that the County Treasurer and staff attended a three day Edmunds webinar including Budget preparation, and various systems including the "dashboard" which will allow greater access to the public when viewing payments, check registers, etc. The Director called for more volunteers in manning the Tourism Center and presented the idea of having either the College or Vo-Tech or both provide a live video feed of the Freeholder meetings to our local cable channel.

Public Service-Mr. Vanderslice reported that College School Bonds may be available next year up to three million dollars, which will carry a 25% match. He further noted that the College is at 81.5% of their fall enrollment goals, and projected revenues are also down 9.3%.

Health- Mr. Bobbitt stated that he had no report at this time.

Social Services- Ms. Timberman stated that the Salem-Bridgeton shuttle had a press release last week hoping to encourage additional riders. There is some thought to including a stop at the Amish Market in Bridgeton. The for profit Ghost tour set for October 12th is sold out, and the Commission on Women is accepting nominations for the Women of Achievement Award, deadline is November 30th.

Public Safety- Mr. Cross stated that he had no report at this time; however there were scheduled upcoming meetings with the Prosecutor.

Transportation, Tourism, Agriculture- Mr. Ware commented on the recent clean up of the County owned rail yard. Good cooperation between Public works and the Sheriff in providing inmate labor. Also that on tonight's agenda is the first land to be acquired and preserved as open space property, in Elmer.

Public Works- Mr. Laury commented that Public Works was working on a number of projects enhancing shared services including the Gun Range in Pennsville, Women's Services building, and Salem Community College Parking lot. He further noted work is beginning on the route 540 bridge, Willow Grove litigation continues to move forward, and work on the dredging of Avis Mill is in the discussion stage, although the permit is good through 2014, Discussion were held with Pierson Contracting about the damage to Fort Mott road, Mr. Pierson is cooperating.

At 6:20 pm Freeholder Timberman made a motion pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 to enter executive session to discuss one workman's compensation case, Paul Villegas, a residency waiver by Officer Priest, and contract negotiations between the County and Salem city for dispatching services, second by Freeholder Vanderslice, carried 7/0.

Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders Executive Session Minutes October 3, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Director Acton at 6:20 PM

The stated purpose of the meeting is to discuss one workman's compensation case, Paul Villegas, a residency waiver request, Charles Priest, and contract negotiations between the County and the City of Salem for dispatching services.

Freeholders Present: Dept. Director Laury, Cross, Vanderslice, Bobbitt, Timberman, Ware, Director Acton. Solicitor Ross Levitsky, CFO Wright, Administrator Ford, Clerk Gage.

Solicitor Levitsky presented the update on the Paul Villegas case.

Clerk Gage presented the waiver of residency request by Sheriff Officer Chuck Priest.

Freeholder Cross discussed the pending resolution for dispatch services between the City of Salem and the County. He proposed the one year agreement be amended to a firm three year agreement including 2012, 2013, and 2014. Each calendar year will see an increase of 2%. Year 2012-\$124,000, 2013-\$126,480, and 2014- \$129,010. Freeholders agreed to entertain the amendment in open session for formal action.

Deputy Director Laury made a motion to come out of Executive session and to recess the meeting at 6:46 PM, second by Freeholder Bob Vanderslice, motion carried.

Respectively submitted,

Earl R. Gage Clerk of the Board